

Education Data Workshop

The first in the Urban Institute Data Workshop Series

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Registration opens at 9:15 a.m.

500 L'Enfant Plaza SW

Washington, DC 20024

(accessible via the L'Enfant Plaza Metro station)

RSVP to externalaffairs@urban.org

OVERVIEW: Join Urban Institute education data experts for a half-day deep dive into data congressional offices use. Review data sources—including their benefits and drawbacks—and learn how to easily extract the numbers your boss is looking for.

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES: Congressional staff who are interested in the skills needed to find district- and state-specific education data. Working knowledge of education policy is highly recommended, as the workshop will focus on data and assume background knowledge of topics such as Pell grants and Title I, familiarity with terms like local education agency (LEA), and understanding of key legislation such as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Higher Education Act (HEA).

CONTENT: This workshop will cover data important to policy professionals in both K–12 and postsecondary education.

URBAN'S DATA COMMITMENT: Data drives decisions and can inform policy choices. At the Urban Institute, we elevate the debate by providing data and tools to help policymakers from both sides of the aisle come to their own evidence-based conclusions.

AGENDA:

Session 1

Crunching Higher Education Stats (9:30 a.m.–10:40 a.m.)

HEA reauthorization remains a top priority, and data on Pell grants, college affordability, student loans, graduation rates, and labor market outcomes can inform policy discussions. In this session, you'll learn about the following:

- which higher education data sources researchers trust, their limitations, and important caveats

- how to interpret the data in context
- how to find and work across data sets.

Workshop leaders: Sandy Baum and Kristin Blagg

Data sources: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, College Scorecard, the Urban Institute's Understanding College Affordability website, Trends in Student Aid, the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, the Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Pell and student loan repayment simulator tools

Session 2

Presenting: DataViz (10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.)

Sharing and presenting data is essential to advancing your policy goals. Renowned presenter Jon Schwabish will lay out the principals for effective data communication, demonstrating how to conceptualize, create, and deliver your [charts graphs, and data](#).

Speaker: Jon Schwabish ([PolicyViz](#), [Twitter](#), [Data@Urban](#))

Working Lunch

Using the Education Data Explorer (11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.)

Urban's Education Data Explorer brings together all the major federal education datasets into one easily searchable site. In this session, you'll learn how to build a custom dataset using the Explorer and how to quickly find and analyze trends.

Workshop leader: Erica Blom

Session 3

Discovering K–12 Numbers (12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m.)

ESSA implementation, school visits, and meetings with local teachers' groups mean policy staff need to quickly pull relevant data, such as school lunch participation, student discipline numbers, Advanced Placement course enrollment, and test scores for LEAs, schools, or specific congressional districts. In this session, you'll learn about the following:

- which K–12 data sources researchers trust, their limitations, and important caveats
- what data are available at the congressional district level and how to find them
- how to accurately analyze data from multiple sources

Workshop leader: Matt Chingos

Data sources: Common Core of Data, Civil Rights Data Collection, EDData, Census Bureau, National Assessment of Educational Progress, school funding indicators

Office Hours

Check in on the details (1:15 p.m.–2:15 p.m.)

Bring questions to Urban Institute researchers. Have one-on-one or small group conversations with the research team for help finding the data or information you're looking for.

RSVP to externalaffairs@urban.org.

DETAILS:

Questions? Email [Amy Peake](#) or [Alex Tilsley](#).

*This workshop is designed to comply with House and Senate ethics rules, but staff are encouraged to contact their Ethics Committee with any questions. The Urban Institute is a nonprofit organization that does not take positions on legislation, lobby, or endorse proposals.

*This invitation is not transferable; please contact us to extend an invitation to additional staff.